

The National Society of the
Sons of the American Revolution

Origins

The largest of all American patriotic societies for men, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution traces its origins to the Sons of Revolutionary Sires which was organized at San Francisco, California on July 4, 1876. It assumed its present name at a meeting at Fraunces Tavern, New York City, in 1889, and was chartered by Act of Congress on June 9, 1906. Membership is open to any man over 18 years of age, a citizen of good repute in the community, and the lineal descendant of an ancestor "who was at all times unfailing in loyalty to, and rendered active service in, the cause of American Independence," either as a member of the armed forces or militia, as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, as a member of a Committee of Safety or Correspondence, as a member of the Continental Congress, or as a recognized patriot who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain.

Distinguished Members

President Ford and Vice President Rockefeller are members of the SAR. Other presidents who have been members include Presidents Johnson, Eisenhower, Truman, Hoover, Coolidge, Harding, Taft, Theodore Roosevelt, McKinley and Hayes. Sir Winston Churchill was a member.

Members in the 94th Congress include Senators Allen (Ala.), Fannin (Ariz.), Goldwater (Ariz.), Chiles (Florida), Nunn (Ga.), Talmadge (Ga.), Mathias (Md.), Wyman (N.H.), Burdick (N.D.), Taft (Ohio), Bartlett (Okla.), Schweiker (Pa.), Thurmond (S.C.), Brock (Tenn.), Tower (Tex.), and Byrd (Va.) Also, Representatives Nichols (Ala.), Rhodes (Ariz.), Goldwater (Cal.), Wilson (Cal.), Bennett (Fla.), Haley (Fla.), Sikes (Fla.), Natcher (Ky.), Gude (Md.), Kemp (N.Y.), Ashbrook (Ohio), Murtha (Pa.), Quillen (Tenn.) and Slack (W.V.).

Chapters

Chapters of the SAR exist in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Switzerland and France. (In France, members of the SAR there saw to it that throughout WWII occupation by the Germans, the American flag flew over Gen. Lafayette's grave.) A group is being formed in Spain based on ancestors who served the American cause under DeGalvez.

Officers

The present President of the SAR is Dr. M. Graham Clark, president of the School of the Ozarks. Treasurer General is Ralph M. Pabst, a retired publisher

and currently a director of several corporations. Chancellor General is Tullius Brady, a Mississippi attorney and former member of that state's legislature. Dr. R. Warburton Miller, a clinical psychologist, is Secretary General.

1974 Congress

Receiving the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal, and speaking at the 1974 SAR Congress in Baltimore were Secretary of the Navy J. William Mendenhall and Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, the latter a member of the SAR. Since that time, the Gold Good Citizenship Medal has been awarded in special ceremonies to Gen. Robert E. Cushman and General Jimmy Doolittle.

Headquarters

The Headquarters of the National Society, SAR, is located at 2412 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. The Executive Secretary is Warren S. Woodward.

Foreign "Entanglements"

The SAR Vice President for the Foreign (European) District is Comte. Patrice de Rochambeau. President of the Society in France is Comte. Rene de Chambrun. President of the Society in Switzerland is Ambassador Shelby C. Davis.

1975 Congress

The 85th Congress of the SAR will be held at the Copely Plaza, Boston, June 28th through Wednesday, July 2. The July 2 event for which the invitation is extended is the President General's Banquet. It is "black tie," with white jackets recommended. Decorations are customarily worn.

*white tie
banquet*